

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACREP GUAM TTPI MI IMMEDIATE

CG CAMP PENDLETON IMMEDIATE

CG FORT CHAFFEE IMMEDIATE

EGLIN AFB FLORIDA IMMEDIATE

INDIANTOWN GAP MILITARY RESERVATION PA IMMEDIATE

WAKE ISLAND/FOR STATE REP IMMEDIATE

INFO DOD/PDASD (C)

JCS/J-4

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FOR CIVIL COORDINATORS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: PRESS RELEASE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
WILL BE RELEASED AT STATE DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFING 1 AUGUST:

"PLANNING ESTIMATES FOR THE PHASING OUT OF THE FOUR REFUGEE
RECEPTION CENTERS WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND
THE TWO REMAINING PACIFIC STAGING AREAS WERE ANNOUNCED
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TODAY BY JULIA VADALA TAFT, DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AGENCY

TASK FORCE FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEES.

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA, SMALLEST OF THE FOUR CONTINENTAL CENTERS, SHOULD BE EMPTY BY THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER SHE SAID. ITS CURRENT POPULATION STANDS AT 3,278 AND, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS, NO NEW ARRIVALS ARE SCHEDULED. CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA IS SCHEDULED TO CLOSE NEXT, IN MID-OCTOBER.

THE RECEPTION CENTER AT FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PA., WILL BE PHASED OUT IN TWO STAGES, WITH A CUTBACK TO A POPULATION OF 6,000 BY MID-SEPTEMBER AND A TOTAL CLOSE-OUT SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF NOVEMBER. THE DOUBLE DATES ARE A REFLECTION OF THE CENTER'S CAPACITY FOR HEATED ACCOMODATIONS IN COLD WEATHER. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 13,393 REFUGEES AT FORT INDIANTOWN GAP.

FORT CHAFFEE, ARKANSAS WILL ALSO UTILIZE A DUAL SEQUENCE; IT WILL PHASE DOWN FROM ITS PRESENT POPULATION OF 22,411 TO 17,000 REFUGEES BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER AND IT ANTICIPATES A FINAL CLOSING DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. FORT CHAFFEE'S PLANS ALSO REFLECT THE FACILITY'S COLD-WEATHER HOUSING CAPACITY.

AS BEFORE, REFUGEES STILL AT THE TWO REMAINING STAGING SITES, ON WAKE ISLAND AND GUAM, WILL BE TRANSFERRED AS SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE IN CENTERS IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE 1,482 REFUGEES ON WAKE AS OF 30 JULY WILL BE MOVED BY THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST; THE 2,870 REFUGEES NOW ON GUAM WILL ALL HAVE COME TO THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES BY EARLY OCTOBER. THE FACILITIES FOR THE 2,232 WOULD-BE REPATRIATES ON GUAM WILL REMAIN IN OPERATION, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES AGREE TO ACCEPT THEIR RETURN.

IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, MRS. TAFT STATED THAT "THE OPENING OF ADDITIONAL CENTERS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE REQUIRED, AS OVER FIFTY PER CENT OF THE REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED FOR NEW HOMES IN THREE MONTHS OF TASK FORCE OPERATION. IT IS A GREAT CREDIT TO THE MANY

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ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SELFLESSLY DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE TASK OF RESETTLING THE MORE THAN 130,000 REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM AND COMBODIA THAT WE CAN SAY WITH SOME CERTAINTY THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET OUR GOAL OF PROGRAM COMPLETION BY THE END OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR".

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